

200 - To 132 BC changes in law (4)

It should not be understood from this that the Romans of the old sterling quality had entirely disappeared. There were still many at Rome and they were quite numerous at a considerable distance from Rome. But since these latter could not get to Rome without great inconvenience, they could not be depended on to be there at any time the tribal assembly might be called together.

As those who possessed full Roman citizenship

realized more fully what advantages and
privileges it gave them, they became less
& less willing to extend it to others. The
Roman state included not more than
1/3 the Italian peninsula. The rest of the
Italian people, except the Greeks in the South,
were obliged to provide soldiers for the Roman wars
from which they gained little. Rome's income
from her empire was now so great that no
regular money taxes had to be imposed on her
citizens; moreover they were often able to escape
much of the more burdensome military service
such as that required in Spain. But the allies had
to pay heavy blood taxes, and even the people in the
Latin colonies received scanty consideration. The
number of these colonies had not increased
much since 200 B.C. partly because Roman citizens
were so unwilling to give up their citizen rights and
accept Latin rights only. Considering the burdens
borne by those of Latin rights by the federated
allies in Italy, it is not surprising that by 133 B.C.
they were beginning to demand that they be
admitted to full Roman citizenship.

the numerous citizen colonies founded in the past 75 years. This left a lower quality of people in Rome whose numbers were constantly being recruited by the emancipation and enfranchisement of slaves or their children, mainly of Greek or Oriental origin. As these foreigners intermarried with the less desirable Romans, the citizen body at Rome became even less like their predecessors; they grew more greedy and fickle and were more amenable to bribery and more easily stirred to most violence than the old Romans.

(3)

By the time of CATO the assemblies met only to elect officers, to decide war or peace, and to vote on important constitutional changes, grants of citizenship, and appeals of citizens in cases of life and death. The tribal assembly jealously clung to some of its old prerogatives, but in general it played a minor part in government.

This was just as well, for its composition left much to be desired.

Since the war with Hannibal hosts of citizens

had flocked to Rome, although regular and profitable employment there was rather uncertain. This migration had been due partly to the devastation of their lands in the Hannibalic war and partly to other causes. Some of these former proletarians counted on the largess of the great families for their means of livelihood and so voted as their benefactors desired. Bread was the staple diet of the poor, and it was part of the aedile's duty to see that grain was plentiful and cheap. It was not hard to do this with the grain tolls of the provinces coming in, but it pauperized the mass of the people in the city. Another duty of the aediles was to keep the city people amused. There were many festivals at Rome, sometimes lasting for several days. Although the state provided some money for chariot races, wild-beast fights and processions, the aediles provided more from their own purses. This policy of "bread and circuses" had a bad influence on the people. Moreover, the character of the citizen body at Rome was changing materially. Many of the sturdy older Roman citizens had joined

some little time to learn the duties of his office and about the time he was getting fairly familiar with them his term would expire. Of course, all this helped the Senate to control the magistrates.

The tribunes had formerly represented the common people. They still presided over the tribal assembly, but now, for various reasons, they worked in friendly relations with the Senate - they were "rather the tame agents of the Senate than the champions of the democratic cause." A tribune rarely proposed any law in the tribal assembly without senatorial approval. Furthermore, it was quite contrary to custom for a tribune to hold office two years in succession. Laws were also made (153 BC) by which any higher magistrate had the right to stop proceedings in the tribal assembly by declaring the oration unfavorable. Owing to these laws and customs, the tribal assembly was most unlikely to take matters into its own hands.

Most of the ordinary lawmaking was done by the Senate or the praetors. The Senate ordered troops to be levied, raised money by taxes or loans,

managed the finances, and generally instructed the magistrates. The praetors presided over the courts and made the needed occasional changes in civil and criminal law by their edicts which were issued at the beginning of their terms of office and were based largely on those of their predecessors. Thus the law was largely judge-made; the Senate of course had great influence on the praetors. There were also special courts to investigate charges of embezzlement, murder, treason, and misgovernment in the provinces.

153 BC

might become an aedile; as aedile he was expected to make liberal provision for entertaining the idle populace of Rome at his own expense. Ordinarily he would then be eligible for the praetorship at 34. At 37 (or 34) (if he skipped the aedileship, which he could do), he might be elected consul and perhaps later censor. It is obvious that private financial resources were needed to run for these offices - a poor man had almost no chance. Moreover, these one-year terms were wasteful because it took a man

or for the office soon and clerk here which had become necessary as their duties expanded. To make it hard for an ambitious young man to rise too rapidly to supreme power, a regular routine of office holding was set up (the CURSUS HONORUM), a two-yr interval being legally required between the terms of any two offices. Until he was 28 a man was liable for military service. Then he could run for the quaestorship, in which office he served as financial secretary at Rome or in the provinces. After 2 yrs he

153 BC - 145 BC

133 BC

outwardly the Roman system of government was about the same in 133 BC as before the Punic Wars. The Consuls and other magistrates had the same duties at Rome, but the practical operation of the government had changed. The Senate had taken more and more complete control of affairs and become the leader in all branches of government - the executive, the administration, the legislative, and even the judicial. The upper magistrates (Consuls, praetors, quaestors, and censors)

were still elected by the centuriate assembly which was organized in slightly more democratic fashion than of old. In imitation of the tribal assembly, the voters were listed by wards. The voters in each ward were then divided into five classes and each class into two groups, one of older and the other of younger citizens. The first-class voters did not count; but the upper classes had fewer numbers than the lower, and the older groups fewer than the younger. Thus the votes of the older & richer men had much more weight than those of the younger and poorer. Conservative candidates continued to have a big advantage in elections by the centuriate assembly. The tribunes, quaestors, and aediles were elected in the tribal assembly, composed of 35 tribes or wards each having one vote. In each tribe one citizen's vote was as good as another's.

The number of praetors had been increased to 6 largely because of the need for more magistrates to govern the provinces. It became customary for the Senate to sign the government of a province to each of the consuls and praetors after completing his one-year term of office. But these officers still served without pay either for themselves

145 BC

CAIUS LUCILIUS

c180 BC - 102? BC

Latin satiric poet considered the founder of Latin Satire born Componia, Italy. About 1300 fragments survive from his 30 books. He influenced Horace, Persius and Juvenal.

145-130B C

DURANT

PTOLEMY VII

each other and reign together

145BC

DURANT

Since the death of PTOLEMY VI, Egypt had rapidly decayed. Her kings were no longer able to maintain social order or national freedom, the Roman Senate increasingly dictated their policy, and garrisoned Alexandria with Roman troops. By the will of PTOLEMY XI, whom Pompey and Gabinius had established on the throne, the government had descended to his son PTOLEMY XII and his daughter Cleopatra, who were to marry

145BC

Demetrius II NICATOR, Demetrius'.
son and successor defeated
BALAS and assumed the
Syrian throne

145-116 BC

PTOLEMY VIII EUERGETES II
was Emperor

b 145 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

SZE-MA CH'IEU (b 145 BC)

The "Historical Record" is the history of China from the beginning to 150 BC. It contains 526,500 words which were originally scratched on bamboo tablets. It was translated into 219 volumes in 1247.

145-144

PTOLEMY VII NEOS PHILOPATOR
was Pharaoh

faithfully to the original record so that
in 1747 the work consisted of 219 volumes
in which the national history had
been revised and condensed.

Born 145 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

Se-ma Chien born. in China
His "Historical Record" gives the history
of China from the beginning to
the author's own times in
526,500 words, all originally
scratched with a stylus upon
bamboo sheets

Each succeeding dynasty caused
the records of its rule to be added

145BC

BALAS was killed. Jonathan
shifted his allegiance to Demetrius II,
for which Demetrius transferred to
Jonathan 3 districts from Samaria

was garrisoned. Adida was fortified. Gaza was captured. The Seleucid garrison in Jerusalem was blockaded, the walls of Jerusalem and the fortress of Judah were repaired.

Jonathan renewed the diplomatic links with Rome initiated by Judas in 161 BC and with Sparta.

145 BC

When Antiochus VI and Tryphon
ousted Demetrius II, they imposed
Jonathan in ^{his} position and made his
brother Simon governor of the coastal
region.

Jonathan and Simon began
rapidly to develop Judah's position.
The Seleucid garrison at BETH-ZUR
was replaced by a Jewish one. Joppa

c 145 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

NICOMEDES invented the
curve known in mathematics
as the CONCHOID

145-116 BC

Ptolemy VII Physcon
was King of Egypt

c145 BC

~~Jerusalem~~
Egypt

ONIAS IV built a temple
in LIEON TOPOLIS

145-138 BC

Antiochus VI And TRYPHON
King of Syria (Seleucid

145-138 BC

Demetrius II was King
of Syria (Seleucid)